

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 686

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. John Daniel "Dan" Bateman upon the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, known far and wide as The World's Greatest Horse Show, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes long-time owner and exhibitor, the late Dr. John Daniel "Dan" Bateman, who was inducted posthumously; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bateman, of Albany, Georgia, was founding chairman of the Albany Charity Horse Show and a member of the Georgia Walking Horse Association and the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association; and

WHEREAS, he also served on the Celebration Advisory Board and organized an annual luncheon meeting of past Amateur World Grand Championship riders; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his twenty-five illustrious World Championships and World Grand Championships, Dr. Bateman won sixteen Amateur Championships on his beloved Ebony's Dixie Belle, under the astute guidance of Trainer Larry Edwards; three of the sixteen wins were Amateur World Grand Championships in consecutive years starting in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dan Bateman's proudest personal achievement in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry was the retirement of the Colonel C.W. Daugette, Jr./Moonglow, Jr. Challenge Trophy in 1988; at that time the trophy had not been retired in more than twenty years, as the requirement for retirement was three years of winning the World Grand Championship; and

WHEREAS, Ebony's Dixie Belle won a total of eighteen Celebration Championship titles and was among the top horses claiming that many titles by one owner/rider; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bateman also owned the 1986 World Grand Champion three-year-old Hometown Favorite, ridden by Gary Edwards; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband to his wife, Mariellen Johnson Bates, and a proud father, Dr. Bates was deeply committed to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, although he enjoyed his horses and the friendly competition associated with the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, Dr. Bates particularly cherished his family's involvement in the sport; and

WHEREAS, his son, John Bateman, won the Juvenile World Championship and World Grand Championship on Ebony's Dixie Belle in 1985, and he rode Hometown Favorite to Three- and Four-Year-Old Amateur World Championships; and

WHEREAS, his daughter, Jennifer Bateman, won the very first Juvenile Eleven-and-Under Juvenile World Grand Championship in 1981, on Shaker's Coold Due following her win in the Juvenile Gelding Division that year; and

WHEREAS, by means of his posthumous induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Dr. Dan Bateman has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Dr. John Daniel "Dan" Bateman, a gifted and dedicated horse owner and exhibitor, on the occasion of his posthumous induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, and fondly recall his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.